

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 16A and 16B.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet. One (1) replacement sheet, including amended Figs. 16A and 16B and non-amended Figs. 16C and 16D.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments, and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, and 15-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-2, 5-8, and 11-14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 are amended, and new claims 15-18 are added. Support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and therefore no new matter is added. Specifically, support is provided for new independent claims 15-18 from, for example, page 7, line 12 to page 8, line 10; page 9, lines 24-27; page 14, line 26 to page 16, line 6; and FIGS. 1 and 2 of the originally filed specification.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 is acknowledged with thanks, the Examiner indicating that the claims will be allowable when rewritten in independent form. In response, claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 are so-rewritten. Thus, the allowance of claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 is requested.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to because legends explaining reference numerals in Figures 16A through 16D are not shown. In response, Applicants have amended Figures 16A and 16B and the specification on page 7, line 12 to page 8, line 2, such that elements are identified in the specification and in Figures 16A through 16D. Accordingly, Applicants request the objection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 5, 7, 8, and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European patent application EP 1 154 408 A2 to Taniguchi et al. ("Taniguchi") in view of either United States patent application publication 2002/0097807 to Gerrits ("Gerrits") or United States patent 6,144,937 to Ali ("Ali"), and claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over *Taniguchi* in view of *Gerrits* and further in view of United States patent application publication 2006/0098808 to Machok et al. ("Machok"). In response, Claims 1-2, 5-8, and 11-14 have been cancelled thereby mooted the rejections.

Newly added claim 15 recites an apparatus including "a controller which causes the second audio coder to encode the low-frequency components of the digital audio signal and disables the first suppressor, when the signal mode is disabled." Neither *Taniguchi*, *Gerrits*, *Ali*, nor *Machok* teaches or suggests at least these features. Thus, Applicants request the allowance of claim 15.

Independent claim 16, while of different scope than claim 15, recites similar features and is therefore allowable over *Taniguchi*, *Gerrits*, *Ali*, and *Machok* for reasons at least similar to those discussed above for claim 15.

Newly added claim 17 recites an apparatus including "a coder which encodes both of the high-frequency components and the low-frequency components contained in the digital audio signal after the noise components are suppressed by the suppressor in case that the mode signal instructs encoding both of the high-frequency components and the low-frequency components, and encodes the low-frequency components contained in the digital audio signal after the noise components are suppressed by the suppressor in case that the mode signal instructs encoding the low-frequency components." Neither *Taniguchi*, *Gerrits*, *Ali*, nor *Machok* teaches or suggests at least these features. Thus, Applicants request the allowance of claim 17.

Newly added claim 18 recites a method including "encoding only the low-frequency components whose noise components are suppressed when the mode signal instructs encoding only the low-frequency components." Neither *Taniguchi*,

Gerrits, Ali, nor *Machok* teaches or suggests at least these features. Thus, Applicants request the allowance of claim 18.

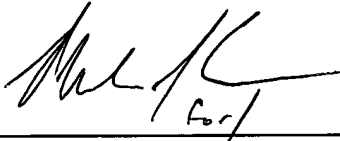
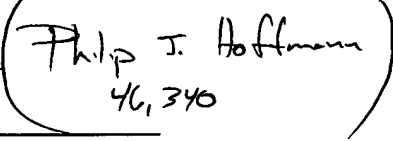
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 21, 2008

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